

Fall 2015

Fall 2015

College of Education and Professional Studies

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Fall 2015



CONNECTIONS

A publication of the College of Education and Professional Studies at Eastern Illinois University

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New Health Studies Master's Program

The Health Studies Department recently established a new master's degree in Health Promotion and Leadership. "This new degree will allow students to either progress further in their career or enter the field at a higher level," said Dr. Robert Bates, former chair of the Health Studies Department, who led the effort to create the new program. "The Health Studies department benefits from faculty and student interaction in classwork, areas of research, and higher levels of internship experiences."

The new program was created in response to an increased emphasis on health education and promotion. The Department of Health Studies anticipates that employment of health educators is expected to grow by 37 percent from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. It expects that growth in this area will be driven by efforts to reduce healthcare costs by educating people about healthy habits and behaviors.

Dr. Misty Rhoads assumed the role of chair of the Department of Health Studies in June. An EIU faculty member since 2007, she has two degrees from EIU and a Ph.D. in health education from Southern Illinois University. She said there had been a great demand from past health studies students for a master's program within the department. The new program includes a total of 33 credit hours, with an option of either creating a project or writing a thesis. Students completing the new master's degree program will be able to apply for jobs in a variety of different settings, including community hospitals, non-profit organizations and health maintenance organizations.

Both Rhoads and Bates said the new degree provides students with a stronger knowledge base about research and the role that it plays in the profession. "Students with an undergraduate degree can hold entry-level positions with the skills to educate, conduct research and perform some evaluation," Rhoads said. "Those who complete the graduate degree are taught to lead and direct a health education program. They can guide individuals who hold bachelor's degrees in the workplace.

"The program will inspire students and provide growth to the department and the university. It will allow the department to continue to be competitive," she added. Classes in the new master's program will begin in Spring 2016.



Dr. Robert Bates, former department chair of Health Studies (HST) and Dr. Misty Rhoads, current HST department chair.

On the Cover:

Jasmine Wendt-Ballard shares the findings of her undergraduate research with members of the University community at the CEPS Research Fair in Buzzard Hall.

Read more about undergraduate research at EIU at http://www.eiu.edu/research_undergraduate.php.

A Life Changing Experience

Dr. Kiran Padmaraju, an associate professor in the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education at EIU, has led a study abroad trip to India for the past two years. During the two-week experience, students have the privilege of teaching in a school in New Delhi. "Students get the opportunity to interact with students and teachers from a diverse culture and learn about a diverse perspective related to pedagogy, as well," Padmaraju said. "Our students were surprised by the teacher-centered learning, which is so different than current American-style best practices, but they were amazed by the engagement of the students in learning despite this style."



"As an early childhood education major, the one thing that really struck me was all of the different languages," said Erin Hill, one of this year's India study abroad participants. "At the school we visited, the teachers taught in English, Hindi and whatever language the student speaks at home, such as Telegu. For most students in America it is considered good if they know the basics of one other language!"

A native of India, Padmaraju had the idea for the study abroad trip as a way for future teachers to have the opportunity to see what schools are like in other parts of the world. "I thought it would be good for the students to go to a place that's very different from American culture," Padmaraju said. "My belief is that future teachers should be expanding their horizons to truly become global educators."

During this educational adventure, Padmaraju and students traveled to many famous destinations within India on weekends and in the evenings. They also had the opportunity to dine with host families in order to experience Indian cuisine, and even wore traditional Indian dress for one dinner at Taj Falaknuma Palace, in Hyderabad, India.

The Summer 2015 trip marked the second year of this educational opportunity. "It's a life-changing experience," Padmaraju said. "If you have ever dreamed about going to India to learn about education in another country, this is the trip for you."

Master's Program in Elementary Education Receives First Choice Designation

The Master of Science in Education in Elementary Education was recently recognized as a First Choice Graduate Program. Graduate programs are designated "First Choice" after rigorous review from EIU's Council on Graduate Studies, with oversight from the Graduate School, to ensure they meet the highest standards of scholarly excellence.

Dr. Linda Reven, interim chair of the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education, said the First Choice Program Review was a process that ultimately enhanced the overall quality of the department's graduate program. She noted, "This designation indicates that the program meets the highest standards for graduate study at Eastern Illinois University and has resulted in benefits, including additional graduate assistantships, that directly support student scholarship and research."

Graduate Certificate for English as a Second Language (ESL) Endorsement

The first students completed classes in Summer 2015 for a newly approved graduate Certificate in ESL Instruction from the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education. The Certificate in ESL Instruction, which can help qualify students for the English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement in Illinois, is designed for licensed educators who want to develop their professional knowledge and skills to teach English as a second language to K-12 students.

Dr. Linda Reven, interim chair of the department, said that the Certificate in ESL Instruction was developed in response to the need for teachers who are well prepared to serve the increasing English language learner population in Illinois.

"In addition to providing the classes on campus, plans are currently underway to make the courses available to early childhood educators in the Newton, Illinois area," she added.

For more about the certificate, please visit www.eiu.edu/elegrad/about.php.

Reaching Out to Help More People



"I knew that the therapy would be fun and that seniors would enjoy the volunteer aspect of the sessions, but overall, the therapy sessions were incredibly meaningful experiences."

~ Dr. Angie Yoder
Assistant Professor,
Counseling and Student Development

Dr. Angie Yoder, assistant professor in the Department of Counseling and Student Development, has her students examine the Child-Parent Relationship Therapy (CPRT) model in her counseling courses. Considered a best practice, this therapy model consists of training parents to provide therapeutic play sessions with their children. Recently, though, Yoder found that she could adapt the CPRT model by using senior citizens in place of parents, which allowed more children to be helped with this therapy. Although the Child-Parent model has been found to be more effective, she found that CPRT is an effective intervention for children involving senior citizen volunteers, who gave free play therapy sessions for children in the Charleston, Ill., school district after they received therapy training from Yoder and her students.

Starting in 2011, Yoder, along with five graduate students, conducted three studies on Child-Senior Relationship Therapy (CSRT), with two studies published and one in the process for publication. In the newest study, seven senior volunteers were trained by a licensed play therapist in group sessions once a week. After training, each volunteer was paired with two children who were exhibiting behavioral problems. This study resulted in 14 children participating in the therapeutic process with the senior volunteers for six to 13 play therapy sessions.

"Following completion of the study, children exhibited a statistically significant decrease in total behavior problems when an outlier was removed," Yoder said. Not only has CSRT benefited the children participants, but "I was surprised at how this therapy benefited the senior volunteers," she added. "I knew that the therapy would be fun and that seniors would enjoy the volunteer aspect of the sessions, but overall, the therapy sessions were incredibly meaningful experiences." Working with these intergenerational groups, EIU counseling students learned to conduct research in their field and then apply the new knowledge to daily practice.

Denise Corray Receives Augustine Distinguished Master's Thesis Award

Denise Corray received the Augustine Distinguished Master's Thesis Award last spring from the EIU Graduate School. She won the award for her master's thesis titled, "Satisfaction and Importance Analysis of Features and Services to Nontraditional Students: A Mixed Methods Approach." Her thesis adviser, Dr. Catherine Polydore, indicated that Corray completed the thesis while earning her Master of Science Degree in College Student Affairs.

The Augustine Distinguished Master's Thesis Award is the highest form of recognition for a graduate thesis at EIU. "I was a nontraditional student myself," Corray said. "I'm a wife, mother of three, a full-time EIU employee, and a business owner. To receive recognition for a job well done on my thesis was such an honor."

Denise Corray and
Dr. Catherine Polydore



Research – Faculty and Students Working Together



“As students learn about behavior change theories and strategies to increase physical activity, they also participate in a large class project to increase physical activity in students, faculty and staff at EIU.”

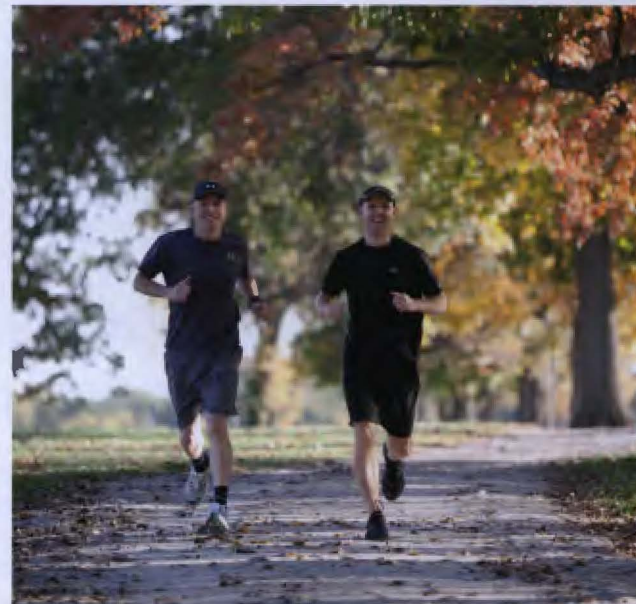
~ Dr. Amber Shipherd
Assistant Professor, Kinesiology
and Sport Studies

Dr. Amber Shipherd, an assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Sports Studies, is continuously conducting sports research through the lens of exercise psychology. Several of her interest areas include athlete peer leadership/development and the sources of motivation in runners. During the pilot phase of the research on motivation, she found that the runners she studied said that their motivation was based on how they were feeling physically – if they were not in pain or fatigued, they felt more confident in their running. It makes sense then, that the competitive runners were likely in better physical shape at the beginning of training than the novice runners, so the competitive runners were more motivated than the beginners. She is now collecting data for her research study.

For Shipherd, it is important to integrate her research into the classes she teaches. Undergraduate students enrolled in her exercise psychology courses participate in a research project as part of the course requirements. “As students learn about behavior change theories and strategies to increase physical activity, they also participate in a large class project to increase physical activity in students, faculty and staff at EIU,” she said. “As part of the project, students conduct reviews of the literature and analyze the effectiveness of physical activity interventions. They work together to develop and deliver the intervention to study participants, and gain experience with data collection and analysis techniques as well.”

As a result of discussions of her own research, Shipherd has had several undergraduate students show interest in conducting their own research projects in biofeedback and chest presses and other exercise psychology topics. “By having actual, practical hands-on experience, it helps students understand the course material much better,” Shipherd said.

EIU Alumni Perry Edinger '84 and Rob Ulm '99 run along the Tom Woodall Panther Trail



CEPS FACULTY RETIREMENTS

Joy Russell	Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education	29.5 Years
Robert Bates	Health Studies	27 Years
John McInerney	Kinesiology and Sport Studies	24 Years
David Stimac	Student Teaching	11 Years
Glenn Hoffman	Student Teaching	7 Years





The Great Outdoors: Not Just Survival – Discovery!

For two years, Dr. James Barkley, assistant professor in the Department of Recreation Administration, has taught an outdoor living skills class. The purpose of the class is to educate students on techniques for outdoor living and survival skills by incorporating hands-on experiences. "Not enough kids are getting outdoors anymore, so many students haven't done a lot of outdoor recreation or been to camp," Barkley said. "It's my job to ignite their interest." Students who enroll in the class vary in outdoor skill levels from beginner to expert.

"I am currently interning with the U.S. Forest Service and I have applied skills I learned in this class such as backpacking, fire building and fishing. This course will challenge you to discover new things about the world and yourself."

~ Nicole Blair '15
Recreation Administration Major

With the course available every other year, Barkley teaches students hands-on skills such as fire-building, water filtration, outdoor safety, medical emergencies, waterfront safety, fishing, hiking, camping, mountain biking, bicycle touring, legal responsibilities for recreational safety, rock and wall climbing, and rappelling. "Because

this is an experiential course, there is something new each time. The students bring different experiences and skills," Barkley said. "It will always be an adventure and always evolve."

The course includes trips that allow students to explore the great outdoors outside of EIU's campus. Past courses included an overnight camping trip, a hike from EIU's McAfee Gym to Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site near Lerna, and a bike tour through Walnut Point State Park in Oakland. "This class not only taught me some important survival skills, but also taught me how to reflect on the course experiences I had in order to learn from them," said Nicole Blair, a former student. "I am currently interning with the U.S. Forest Service and I have applied skills I learned in this class such as backpacking, fire building and fishing. This course will challenge you to discover new things about the world and yourself."

Barkley said he hopes students leave his class with a better understanding of the outdoors, as well as the passion to use the skills they were taught in class. "My hope is that students will feel more confident when leaving this class to try out some of these skills on their own," he said. "I learn just as much from my students as they do from me."

Summer Reading – Not Just for Kids

Drs. Christina Edmonds-Behrend and Jennifer Stringfellow, associate professors in the Department of Special Education (SPE), have teamed up to create a summer reading program for SPE students and faculty. The purpose of the this activity is to stay connected to students over the summer, encourage reading for fun, increase literacy, and provide future teachers with additional classroom tools that they can learn in a non-academic setting. Participants of this program read a book from the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award list. After reading the book, group members share their opinions through Wikispace.

Edmonds-Behrend said reading for fun has become less common than in the past; unfortunately, more students are looking at reading as a requirement. "At some point, reading became a chore," Edmonds-Behrend said. "Teachers need to distinguish the difference between reading for fun and reading for education. Reading for fun uses a different set of skills."

The purpose of the this activity is to stay connected to students over the summer, encourage reading for fun, increase literacy, and provide future teachers with additional classroom tools that they can learn in a non-academic setting.

The program has been in place since 2013 and has had a warm reception from SPE students. "We keep getting positive feedback from students who want us to continue the program each summer," Stringfellow said. "Students are starting to show an interest in reading that they may not have thought was there before."



Dr. Christina Edmonds-Behrend
and Dr. Jennifer Stringfellow

In 2014, the group read "Slob" by Ellen Potter, and this year they chose "One Crazy Summer" by Rita Williams-Garcia. While a lot of the Wikispace comments are focused on plot, characters and setting, some comments are more reflective, framing the discussion of the books and the act of free reading from the perspective of K-12 students. Reading books that some participants do not really like can put these future teachers in the place of their future students. "It's similar to when teachers ask a student to read a book or poem that they may not like," said one participant. "We have to figure out how to keep students engaged with the literature we teach."

"Teachers need a vast repertoire of books to cater to each student," Edmonds-Behrend said. "This summer reading program is teacher education-oriented, and we hope it will encourage students to model reading in the classroom."

EIU Special Education Major Wins Student of the Year Award



The Illinois Council for Exceptional Children's Dean S. Hage Student of the Year Award was presented to Mallory Kowaleski, a senior special education major at EIU. Kowaleski received the award at the Illinois Council for Exceptional Children's Fall 2014 Convention. She was recognized for her outstanding service and leadership to students with exceptionalities in Illinois, as well as to the Illinois Student Council for Exceptional Children. She is the first student from EIU to receive this award.

"This award is a reminder that anyone, including myself, can make a difference," Kowaleski said. "I started volunteering and helping run various organizations on campus because I wanted to make a difference in someone's life."

Mission, Method, Memories

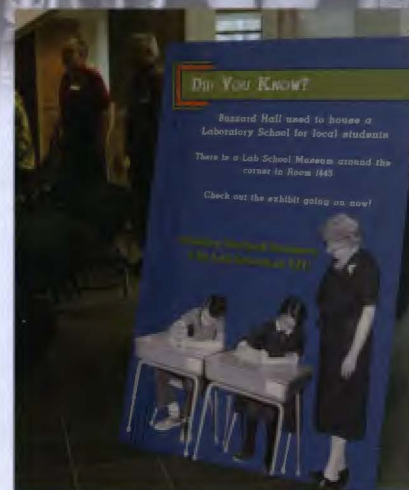
After almost three years of planning and preparation, the EIU Laboratory School Museum opened in Buzzard Hall. The school closed in 1974, so it has been 41 years since laboratory students and teachers graced Buzzard's classrooms. "We wanted to preserve the history and memories of the EIU Lab School's teachers and alumni," said Dr. Diane Jackman, dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies. "It's a special part of Eastern's history."

Dr. Jackman conceived of the museum in 2012 as EIU prepared to host a reunion of EIU Lab School alumni. After receiving their support for the museum, she reached out to the historical administration graduate program in the EIU Department of History. The students in the program helped the college create a permanent exhibit to tell the story of the EIU Lab School for its alumni, community members, and EIU students and faculty. How fitting to have graduate students create this special exhibit!

Major funding for this museum was provided by the Settle siblings and their spouses: Kevin and Cheryl Settle, David and Becky (Settle) Rains, and Brian and Candace Settle. Their memories of attending the EIU Lab School and growing up with their father, Phil Settle, an EIU Lab School teacher, led to their support for this museum.

The historical administration students went above and beyond their required coursework to design a unique space to tell the story of the laboratory school movement in the United States, the EIU Lab School in various locations on EIU's campus, and the eventual closing of the school. This fall, the exhibit received a 2015 Award of Merit from the Illinois Association of Museums.

The EIU Lab School Museum is available for viewing from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; interested persons should stop by the CEPS Dean's office, 1420 Buzzard Hall. For information on the museum, please contact Mary Bower (mebower@eiu.edu) in the Dean's Office, College of Education and Professional Studies, or visit the EIU Lab School Museum website at www.wix.com/eiulabschoolmuseum.



"We wanted to preserve the history and memories of the EIU Lab School's teachers and alumni. It's a special part of Eastern's history."

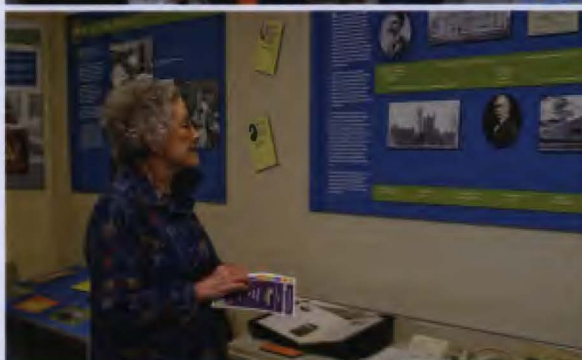
~ Dr. Diane Jackman
Dean, College of Education
and Professional Studies

Top Left - 2015 EIU Historical Administration students (front from left: Caroline Martin, Cory Hurless, Rachael Sapp, Laura Russman; back from left: Emily Spuhler, Amy Wywialowski, Alex Stromberg, Diane Hall, Brian Failing, Daniel Hess)



Faculty, staff, students and Lab School alumni visit the EIU Lab School Museum during its grand opening.

The museum is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; interested persons should stop by the CEPS Dean's office, 1420 Buzzard Hall.



Historical Administration students, Alex Stromberg and Daniel Hess, install the furniture in the permanent Lab School exhibit.



Primary Center Named for EIU Professor



Dr. Nick Osborne, a professor and former chair of the Department of Educational Leadership at EIU, was surprised in late winter when the Mount Vernon (Illinois) School District announced that the Primary Center in Mount Vernon would be renamed in his honor. The Primary Center, a K-3 school, was renamed the "Dr. Nick Osborne Primary Center" during a dedication ceremony in June. During his tenure as superintendent of that school district, the building was designed and built to replace several older school buildings.

The primary school in Mt. Vernon serves 650-700 students with kindergarten and first grade students in a separate wing from second and third grade students. The building is large and airy, a nod to Mt. Vernon's rural location.

Shannon Marler, current principal of the Dr. Nick Osborne Primary Center and an EIU alumna, observed that it was Osborne's "zest for making a difference" that led to the creation of this new building. At the June ceremony, Osborne said, "For them to go the extra step to rename an existing structure that is going to be in existence for many years is a very humbling and overwhelming honor."

New Decatur Off-campus Cohort Model

Last spring, the first classes were offered to teachers in the Decatur School District to earn a master's degree in educational leadership from EIU using a new cohort model. This new model is tailored to a specific school district where earlier cohorts were focused on regions with teachers from multiple school districts. The Department of Educational Leadership found that it was much more beneficial to teachers and districts to tailor their program to meet specific district needs to equip teachers to become district-centered leaders.

Dr. Nick Osborne, a professor in EIU's Department of Educational Leadership, met with Decatur Superintendent Lisa Taylor to mold the new program around district needs and its School Improvement Plan. "Graduate students will gain a better understanding of their own district and the policies and procedures in that district," Osborne said. "This gives students stronger knowledge and a set of skills for the district and their profession. Learning with colleagues provides a built-in network long after the classes have been completed."

The idea to revamp the off-campus cohort model came about as the Department of Educational Leadership was reinventing its master's program. "To redesign our program, we came up with the idea that the school district would 'own' its own cohort and that we (the Department of Educational Leadership) would customize the program for that school district," Osborne said.

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~ Dr. Nick Osborne
Professor, Educational Leadership

The master's program offered in the cohort requires 11 courses and 33 semester hours. Classes meet during the weekends for spring, summer, and fall sessions. Students who successfully complete the program will receive a master's degree in educational leadership and are eligible for the Teacher Leader Endorsement on their Illinois teaching license.

Both Mt. Vernon and Olney have similar cohort programs. Osborne hopes that the department will be able to add more off-campus cohort locations in the future.

Adult and Community Education – Practical Experience in a New Major

During the Spring 2015 semester, the first students in the new Adult and Community Education (ACE) Program gained hands-on practicum experience. This new bachelor's degree is housed in the Department of Secondary Education and Foundations (SED).

One ACE program requirement is to complete 90 hours of hands-on experience during a practicum in an adult and community education setting where students apply principles and instructional strategies learned in their EIU courses. "The purpose of the ACE program is to train undergraduate students in developing, providing and leading educational efforts in a variety of non-school settings," said Dr. Stephen Lucas, chair of SED.

Brittany Moore, a senior in the ACE program, had the opportunity to conduct her practicum at CTF Illinois, a not-for-profit organization that works to empower individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Moore said that she enjoyed working with the people at CTF during practicum, and hopes to continue that work once she graduates from the program. "I think it is important to work with people to help them meet their goals in life," Moore said.

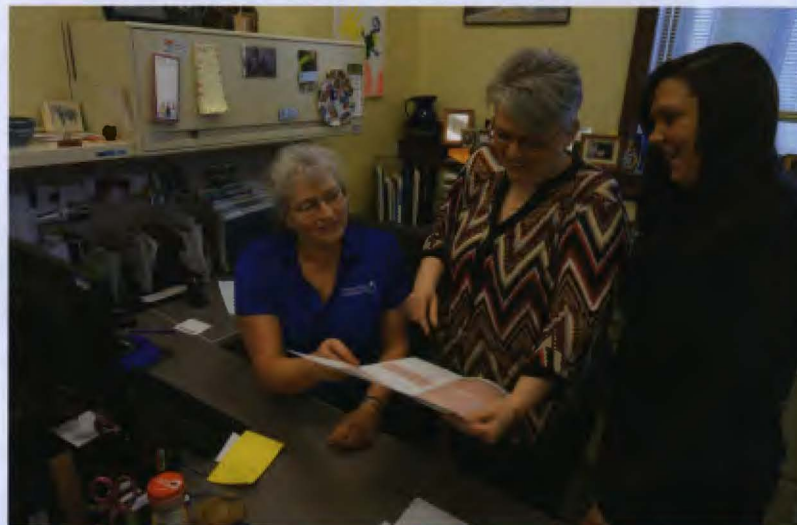
As part of Moore's practicum experience at CTF, she documented the goals and progress of individuals, observed CTF case managers, and kept records of behavioral support plans for each person while interacting with CTF clients. Moore said that her practicum helped her toward her future career and it reinforced her ACE coursework. "My classes include assessment programing, and this practicum helps you see how you can apply assessment and programing for adults with disabilities," Moore said. "I have learned so much that I can apply to class. Most of the classroom activities we do are based on what we are experiencing in our practicum."

Brittany Phee, a senior in the ACE program, was placed in EIU's School of Continuing Education for her practicum. During this semester, Phee worked alongside her practicum supervisors to plan workshops and conferences, as well as various summer camps that are held at the university. Phee said when she originally went into the ACE program, she planned to work with children; however her practicum experience gave Phee an inside look into the many job opportunities her degree can offer.

"As the first undergraduate program of this type in Illinois, students will now be able to gain these skills and apply them immediately after graduation without having to wait to go through a graduate-level program, which is the typical situation now," said Lucas. "This experience opened my eyes to something new that I did not know was out there," Phee said. "It showed me different options."

"As the first undergraduate program of this type in Illinois, students will now be able to gain these skills and apply them immediately after graduation without having to wait to go through a graduate-level program, which is the typical situation now."

~ Brittany Phee
student in the ACE program



Top: Debbie Meadows, Peggy Brown, and Brittany Phee review a project during her practicum in the EIU School of Continuing Education.

Bottom: Brittany Moore works with a client at CTF Illinois.

CEPS Recognizes 15 Alumni

In March, the College of Education and Professional Studies presented 15 distinguished alumni with CEPS Alumni Awards at a ceremony on campus. Dean Diane Jackman noted, "The 2015 CEPS Alumni Award recipients truly exhibited the breadth of the talented alumni from the College of Education and Professional Studies. Each one used their special talents and skills to achieve greatness in both their personal and professional lives. It was an honor for the college to recognize each award winner."

For information on next year's award program, please visit the CEPS Alumni page at www.eiu.edu/cepsalumni.



Front, from left: Richard James, Bill Thiel, Barbara Hundley, Carol Schramm, Chuck Balling. Back, from left: Julie Wollerman, Katie Lewis, Andy Kistler, Leah Reynolds, Candice Holbrook, Carey Dahncke, Melissa McConaha, Chelsey Byers

2015 CEPS Rising Star Award

Candice Holbrook

(B.S. Recreation Administration '08)

Katie Lewis

(B.S.Ed. Elementary Education '08)

Melissa McConaha

(M.S. Counseling '12)

Leah Reynolds

(M.S. College Student Affairs '10)

Lisa Taylor

(M.S.Ed. Educational Administration '06,
Ed.S. Educational Administration '10)

2015 Leadership and Service Award

Chelsey Byers

(B.S. Recreation Administration '99)

Carey Dahncke

(M.S.Ed. Educational Administration '96)

Bridgette Hensley

(M.S.Ed. Counseling '91)

Andy Kistler

(B.S.Ed. Special Education '92)

Julie Wollerman

(M.S.Ed. Educational Administration '98,
Ed.S. Educational Administration '05)

2015 Lifetime Achievement Award

Chuck Balling

(B.S. Recreation Administration '75)

Barbara Hundley

(B.S.Ed. Physical Education '65,
M.S.Ed. Guidance and Counseling '69)

Richard James

(M.S.Ed. Guidance and Counseling '66)

Carol Schramm

(B.S.Ed. Physical Education, '65)

William Thiel

(B.S. Physical Education '50)



EIU Graduate School Alumni Awards

Last spring, the EIU Graduate School, in conjunction with the EIU Graduate Alumni Advisory Board, named three CEPS graduates as Outstanding Graduate Alumni. Patricia Martinez (Guidance and Counseling), Brett Lawless (Elementary Education), and Dr. Jeff Zachwieja (Physical Education) were part of a group of eight EIU alumni to receive this distinction. This award was established in 2005 to celebrate 50 years of EIU graduate education, and is awarded each year.

Five Times the Fun for CEPS Study Abroad Scholarships

In March, the College of Education and Professional Studies held its fifth annual fundraiser to benefit student scholarships for CEPS faculty-led study abroad experiences. Due to the generosity of CEPS alumni and friends, the college was able to raise \$30,000 -- by far the most ever raised at this event!

The CEPS Philanthropy Board, a group of alumni and friends of CEPS, created the fundraiser in 2011 and works throughout the year to raise funds for the college. The board found that study abroad was the kind of experience that was not only life-changing, but virtually impossible to replicate on campus.

Seeing the need, the group worked tirelessly to create a fun and informative evening to raise funds for study abroad scholarships for CEPS students. With a lot of laughter and good food, more than 100 people came together to help make study abroad dreams a reality for a new group of students. Because of this successful fundraiser, the College will be able to provide approximately 30 scholarships to students to have a life-changing experience that enhances their academic program at EIU.

The next fundraiser will take place on Tuesday, March 29, 2016. For more information, please contact Mary Bower at mebower@eiu.edu.



Top: Lou Hencken, Shelby Pilch

Ron Leathers Named 2014 Outstanding Foundation Member



A charter member of the CEPS Philanthropy Board, Ron Leathers received the 2014 Outstanding Foundation Member award, which is presented to individuals who provide exemplary service to the Eastern Illinois University Foundation. Leathers began his career as an English teacher at Robinson (Ill.) High School following his graduation from EIU with a bachelor's degree in English in 1960.

After receiving his master's degree from Indiana State, Leathers joined EIU's English Department as a faculty member

in 1965, and became director of EIU's clinical experiences office. In 1980, he took on the role of assistant dean for the College of Education, and in 1994, became acting dean of the newly merged College of Education and Professional Studies, receiving the EIU Distinguished Service Award for Administrators in 1997. Leathers is a member of the EIU Alumni Association Board of Directors and a member of the EIU Foundation Lord Society.

Larry Ankenbrand Named Honorary Lifetime Member



Dr. Larry Ankenbrand was named the Eastern Illinois University Foundation's 2014 Honorary Lifetime Member in October. Certified as both a principal and superintendent, he taught at EIU in the Department of Kinesiology and Sports Studies (KSS; also known as Physical Education) for more than 37 years before retiring earlier in 2014. He has served as the chair of EIU's Physical Education Department and as dean of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (precursor of the College of Education and Professional Studies).

Ankenbrand received his bachelor's degree from EIU, his master's degree from Indiana State University, and his doctorate from the University of Missouri. His decades-long support of Special Olympics at EIU, as well as his scholarship endowment and other support to EIU, inspired the Foundation to award this honor.

A Very Special Lady



In memory of his mother, Tony Nelson of Springfield, Ill., recently established the Hope Brown Nelson Scholarship in Elementary Education at Eastern Illinois University. Mrs. Nelson was a teacher for many years in the Springfield schools until her retirement. She received her associate's degree in education from EIU in 1934, married in 1938, and became a widow in 1943 after having two children. She moved her young family to Springfield and, while teaching full-time, commuted back and forth to Charleston to get her bachelor's degree, which she earned in 1949. To honor her dedication to education and to create a lasting tribute to her memory, her son

created this scholarship to help elementary education students focus on their student teaching so that they could fully immerse themselves in the student teaching experience to help them become outstanding teachers like Mrs. Nelson.

This scholarship is designed specifically to address the financial difficulty of the student teaching semester with all of its additional demands on students' time (such as tutoring, coaching, grading, and attending conferences and performances.) "We lived in a coach house in Charleston near the EIU campus when I was very small and Mother was teaching at the EIU Laboratory School," said Nelson. "I decided to donate the funds to endow this scholarship in memory of my mother in order to help students through their student teaching semester. I was surprised to learn that if you give a scholarship like this, the money will earn enough to provide students each year into perpetuity. The EIU Office of Development was very helpful."

Like Mother, Like Daughter, Like Daughter



Eloise Buffenmeyer, Susan Friend and Jill Friend – mother, daughter and granddaughter, respectively – all graduated from EIU. What makes this connection distinctive is that they took the extra step to honor their special bond by creating a scholarship that will assist students in career and technology education (business education), recreation administration and special education, which were their areas of study at EIU.

"My friends were planning to attend other universities after high school graduation," said Jill Friend. "But I wanted to go to EIU because of the outstanding special education program."

"We wanted to establish a scholarship at EIU because of its well-known programs and the faculty-student relationships that we all experienced and still have after all this time," said Susan Friend. "I couldn't believe how easy it was to customize this scholarship to honor our unique situation."

They all love how this scholarship helps them stay connected with EIU, while assisting future students to focus on their education. "So many people in our family attended Eastern," said Susan and her mother. "We're just so grateful to be able to create this scholarship."

Honoring Family and Supporting New School Leaders



Charlie and Jan Rohn recently established a scholarship in the Department of Educational Leadership in honor of their family. "After Charlie retired from EIU, I wanted to surprise him so I created this scholarship," Jan Rohn said. "He had worked for the EIU Office of Development helping other alumni and friends create scholarships, so why not one for him?"

They both wanted to help and encourage teachers to further their educations and become outstanding school leaders. "We need great educational leaders," said Charlie Rohn. "Hopefully this scholarship will help identify and assist those students for a career in educational leadership." His own career began as a teacher, which led to becoming a principal and superintendent. From there, he joined the faculty at EIU, became the department chair of educational leadership and, eventually, dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies.

Jan Rohn earned a master's degree from EIU, and their daughter earned her administrative certificate in the Department of Educational Leadership. Their grandchildren participate in EIU educational activities for children, so EIU traditions are knitted into the fabric of their family. They decided that they did not want to wait to establish the scholarship in their estate plan; they wanted to see the scholarship help students now. "I greatly enjoyed working with outstanding dedicated faculty at EIU," said Charlie Rohn. "They were always focused on the welfare of students – both the EIU students and the generations of students that their EIU students would serve."

It has been an exciting year in the College of Education and Professional Studies. Our students, alumni, faculty and staff continue to achieve their dreams while helping others to achieve their dreams. The generosity of CEPS scholarship donors allowed us to provide more than \$160,000 in scholarship assistance for CEPS students this past year.

As you have seen in this issue of Connections, the College's faculty, students and staff had many accomplishments. The Department of Health Studies developed a new master's degree program (a first for them), a College Student Affairs student received the highest award for a graduate thesis, and a Kinesiology and Sports Studies assistant professor -- one of many CEPS professors -- integrated research into her classes to share the challenge and passion for discovering knowledge with students. At the same time, the Department of Educational Leadership reinvented its cohort model to respond to district and student needs, and our Adult and Continuing Education students broke new ground with their first and very successful practicum experiences at community agencies. The EIU Lab School Museum opening last spring was a highlight for the students and the community. Every day brings some exciting new developments to CEPS. We can only guess at what the future holds for all of us!



Diane Jackman, Ph.D., Dean

Each of our current students took a different path to find EIU, just as you did. Along the way, someone helped you achieve your dreams – financially or emotionally – and allowed you to choose a new path since graduation. This issue of Connections highlights the post-graduation paths of several donors that led them to support CEPS students. Each of their gifts reflects the path they took. But most of all, each gift makes a difference!

Not every gift or situation is the same. That is why at EIU, we offer assistance to anyone who wants to make a difference. We'll help you plan a gift strategy that can accomplish that goal no matter your capacity to give. Sometimes, the difference you make may be through an annual scholarship or an endowment. It may be given in your lifetime or in your estate. It may be through insurance or stock. It may be over time or in a one-time gift. And for some, it may be a combination of several ways or gifts to several different areas. However you can make a difference, we are here to help you do just that. Whatever your path in life may be, we hope that all your paths lead back to EIU!

Diane H. Jackman, Ph.D.

Dean

I am EIU and I want to make a difference!

Name(s) _____ Email _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Please accept my gift of: ☐ \$100 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other \$ _____

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☐ CEPS Technology Support ☐ I want to help, but I don't know how. Please ask someone to contact me.

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☐ I have or am considering naming CEPS in my estate plan. Please ask someone to contact me.

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